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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 37th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 100: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued) (A/49/36)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/49/188, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/264-E/1994/113, A/49/293, 311, 321, 337, 366, 410, 415, 416, 512, 528, 545, 582 and 595; A/C.3/49/5, 9, 11 and 17)

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(d) COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION (continued) (A/49/668; A/C.3/49/5, 8 and 10)

1. Mr. AYALA LASSO (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), introducing his report (A/49/36), pledged his determination to meet the aspirations of the world's people for the realization of human rights. The World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, had reaffirmed the universality of human rights and recognized the international community's fundamental responsibility for the promotion and protection of those rights. To that end, as the first United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, he solemnly pledged to preserve and strengthen the spirit of international cooperation embodied in that Conference, in accordance with his mandate and responsibilities under General Assembly resolution 48/141.

2. It was not the role of the High Commissioner to replace the existing human rights mechanisms, but rather to use the tools of policy and diplomacy to establish a dialogue with Governments on human rights issues and assistance. He would act in an impartial, objective and non-selective manner on the basis of three main principles: cooperation at all levels; comprehensive and integrated treatment of human rights; and participation of all actors at all levels.

3. At the most recent session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), he had stressed the need for a systematic exchange of information, experience and expertise on human rights within the United Nations system. The results of the session, summarized in paragraph 24 of his report, were most encouraging. In relations with institutions outside the system, in particular, regional intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and academic and research communities, he had initiated a dialogue aimed at enhancing the possibilities for cooperative endeavours, especially in connection with the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

4. In response to the emergency human rights situation in Rwanda, he had visited that country in May and had spurred the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur, whose work he was responsible for coordinating with that of the Commission of Experts on grave violations of international humanitarian law and genocide. In August, he had returned to Rwanda for the purpose of strengthening the human rights observer presence. He had also discussed the country's needs with its President and had stressed the importance of instituting technical cooperation programmes with the Centre for Human Rights, especially with regard to the judiciary, the armed forces and the police, and also of human rights education. In overcoming the enormous logistical and bureaucratic problems involved in responding to the crisis in Rwanda, the United Nations had gained a great deal of insight into human rights field operations that might prove valuable for the future. In that connection, he expressed his support for the call by the President of Argentina for the establishment of stand-by rapid reaction forces to respond to humanitarian emergencies.

5. The events in Rwanda highlighted the need for another essential facet of the High Commissioner's responsibilities: preventive action. He would look to the various special reporting procedures for early notice of problem areas and would avail himself of every possibility for diplomatic action. In Burundi, for example, he had endeavoured to open and smooth the way for a human rights technical assistance programme, which he hoped would be able to prevent a repetition of the tragedy in Rwanda. If need be, the United Nations human rights presence there could also play a part in a comprehensive United Nations humanitarian assistance effort. In his view, Burundi represented a litmus test of the international community's willingness to act in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations agencies and programmes to forestall a human rights disaster. He was pleased at the action taken thus far by the General Assembly on Burundi and at the support expressed by Member States for the Organization's human rights work in that country.

6. He would also be working to assist countries in their transition to democracy. He had, for example, visited Malawi, where he had signed with the Vice-President a joint declaration on the development of an advisory and technical assistance programme for the promotion and protection of human rights. He strongly believed that the international community had a moral obligation to help Malawi strengthen its human rights and democratic infrastructures. By completing the transition to democracy successfully, Malawi could serve as an example to other African countries.

7. The World Conference on Human Rights had given priority to the right to development as a fundamental human right. The High Commissioner was charged specifically with protecting the realization of that right and with enhancing support from the relevant United Nations bodies. He believed that indicators of progress in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, the development of which was being discussed within ACC, would prove a key tool and that, in general, cooperation among the various United Nations and non-governmental organizations was essential. As he had said in addressing the Working Group on the Right to Development, he was keenly aware of the impact on

the realization of the right to development of structural adjustment policies arising from foreign debt, and he would be following that matter closely. He attached great importance to developing a variety of techniques, outlined in paragraph 73 of his report, for translating the concept of that right to the national level.

8. In keeping with his mandate, and with the conclusions of the Vienna Conference, he attached high priority to facilitating concerted efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and racism. He had established a constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and would be working to ensure coordination between the activities of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and those carried out in connection with the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

9. Since he attached particular importance to the rights and equal status of women, he was closely following preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. He attached similar importance to human rights education and information aimed at creating a universal culture of human rights, which were central to preparations for a plan of action for the United Nations decade for human rights education. In that connection, he also envisaged a stronger and more focused World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights.

10. In the context of those and other human rights issues, he had already undertaken missions to a number of countries to initiate a dialogue with Governments. In that dialogue, which was beginning to bear fruit, he emphasized Governments' universal obligation to promote and protect all human rights, encouraged and facilitated the ratification of international human rights instruments and the identification of obstacles to the full realization of all human rights, and offered United Nations assistance to that end.

11. With reference to his specific responsibility for rationalizing, adapting, strengthening and streamlining the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness, he said that the creation of the position of High Commissioner for Human Rights had entailed an increase in the work of the Centre for Human Rights. Advisory services and technical assistance programmes had been strengthened, particularly in the areas of building national human rights infrastructures, administering justice and training law enforcement officials. The six subprogrammes described in the proposed revisions to the Medium-term Plan, which included a new subprogramme on international cooperation for human rights, corresponded clearly to the precise tasks of his Office and to specific mandates requested by the legislative organs and carried out by the Centre for Human Rights. However, the Centre's already inadequate resources needed to be supplemented to meet his Office's requirements, although only a modest increase in funding would be requested. Meanwhile, his review of the possible need to restructure the United Nations Secretariat in line with his mandate would extend to all sections dealing with human rights matters. His views on proposals for the rationalization and streamlining of the United Nations human rights machinery would be presented in due course, bearing in mind the opinions of Member States.

12. Having given details of the areas in which he had already sought to open avenues of action for the United Nations human rights programme, he added that, within both the international community and the United Nations system, opportunities for cooperation and the coordination of human rights activities had been enhanced and expanded. However, realizing the full potential of his mandate required that the necessary resources be placed at his disposal, so that he could respond to the expectations of world public opinion for effective action in defence of human rights. Moreover, success in that area would not only strengthen the entire human rights programme but also heighten support for United Nations activities in other fields.

13. Regrettably, the disappearance of confrontation between blocs of States and the universal recognition of human rights were not sufficient to bring about a new international order that was more just, progressive and free. An active spirit of cooperation and understanding was needed, combined with persistent efforts to ensure respect for human dignity. The position of High Commissioner had been created with those considerations in mind, and he was determined to give it a clear profile. Following the terms of reference established by the General Assembly and guided by the spirit of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, he had endeavoured to respond appropriately and effectively to the multiple and changing challenges which presented themselves. He did not intend to alter that approach and was confident that he could continue to count on the generous support already received from Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

14. Mr. MUCH (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed full support for the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and commended the impressive work already carried out. With reference to paragraphs 58 and 59 of the report (A/49/36), he asked whether the international community would be required to assist in providing logistical support and human resources. In connection with Rwanda, he would be interested to hear details of the cooperation and coordination established between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, other United Nations bodies and humanitarian organizations. He wondered whether the High Commissioner's mandate had been broad enough to enable him to carry out all the activities needed in Rwanda, for instance, and wished to hear the High Commissioner's views on his own resource needs and those of the Centre for Human Rights. Lastly, he asked whether the High Commission would be including any additional requirements for early-warning and preventive action in his budget outline for 1996-1997.

15. Mrs. DIOP (Senegal) echoed the sentiments expressed by the representative of Germany concerning the High Commissioner's work. She asked why only 50 United Nations human rights field officers had so far been posted to Rwanda, when the operational plan envisaged 147 such officers, and what would be done to ensure that their presence in Rwanda was effective. She wished to know more about the High Commissioner's programme of work in connection with the promotion and protection of the right to development and, lastly, what he thought of the proposals for convening a conference on racism and racial discrimination.

16. Mr. HALINEN (Finland) said that the High Commissioner had a decisive role to play in securing the resources needed to fulfil his mandate, since Member States, while recognizing their central role in that connection, could only act within their capabilities. It would have been useful if the High Commissioner's report (A/49/36) had included further details of those resources. Since paragraph 8 of the report referred to an integrated approach to the promotion of human rights, his delegation would prefer it if United Nations system-wide activities, as referred to in paragraph 21, were integrated as well as coordinated.

17. On another note, he said that the welcome coordination between the High Commissioner, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the Council of Europe, referred to in paragraph 34 of the report, should be extended to include the Security Council, since the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies had proposed that the latter should consider the use of fact-finding and early-warning systems. The conflict resolution, peace-building and strong human rights component mentioned in connection with activities in Rwanda should also be extended to a more general level. As indicated in paragraph 59, his country had been asked to cooperate in securing support in a variety of areas mentioned in that paragraph, and it would endeavour to do so. He hoped, however, that other countries would also cooperate to that end. Turning to paragraph 66, he welcomed the High Commissioner's request that potentially serious human rights situations be drawn to his attention. Lastly, he agreed that the review and restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat mentioned in paragraph 101 should not be limited to the Centre for Human Rights. It should also be conducted without unnecessary delay.

18. Mr. AYALA LASSO (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that the Rwanda experience had been a political success and a logistical failure. It had been successful in that his Office had been able to respond rapidly to the universal demand that it react immediately and draw up a coherent plan of action, even though it had had no prior field experience of operations of such magnitude in response to political emergencies.

19. The operation in Rwanda had been a logistical failure because his Office had lacked the necessary resources in the areas of transport, communications and equipment. Delays had inevitably occurred because the Office had for a long time been unable to overcome its difficulties in that regard. All States had offered help, but very few had provided practical assistance. Nevertheless, the Rwanda operation was now firmly established, although some problems persisted. A considerable number of people were working in the field and their activities were viewed as highly positive by all the United Nations agencies concerned. Progress was therefore being made towards normalizing the situation in Rwanda.

20. The Rwanda experience had underscored the need for lists of people who could stand by to: (a) investigate human rights violations, particularly massacres, so as to provide data for use in legal proceedings; (b) create an atmosphere of trust so that refugees could return and the people of Rwanda could restore their civil institutions; and (c) work on technical assistance programmes. The possibility should also be considered of having equipment on

reserve in order to respond immediately when such emergencies arose. A mechanism should be set up for dealing with emergency situations in strict conformity with the mandate of the High Commissioner.

21. Operations of the type being conducted in Rwanda were financed through voluntary contributions. That placed his Office in a very difficult position, and he had had to make repeated appeals for such contributions to cover activities in Rwanda. There was a need to make advance provision for emergency situations so as to avoid delays that cast doubts on the effectiveness of the United Nations system as a whole.

22. The right to development was a basic element of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as a fundamental aspiration of the international community. As such, it must be given priority in the programmes to be carried out by the High Commissioner. His office was financing studies and initiatives to determine practical ways of promoting the right to development. In that regard, the question of critical poverty was of major importance and great complexity. The problem was so vast that it was necessary to define an appropriate strategy, with specific goals to be achieved gradually, so that further goals could be set and pursued. The Office must remain permanently vigilant in that regard in order to meet the aspirations of all peoples.

23. Despite the successes achieved by the United Nations in combating racial discrimination, particularly apartheid, much remained to be done to deal with new forms of racism. In his visits to European countries where there were certain tendencies towards racism, he had urged Governments to do their utmost to prevent and punish acts of racism or racial discrimination. There was a need to create a clear awareness everywhere that such behaviour would not be tolerated.

24. The Centre for Human Rights was doing extremely useful work under especially difficult circumstances. Although its workload was increasing steadily, there had been no increase in the financial or human resources allocated to it. Member States must provide the Centre with the resources it needed to carry out its work effectively. With regard to the coordination of work in the human rights field, he intended to pursue cooperation with the European Union and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and had contacted regional organizations to propose closer coordination with them in the field of human rights.

25. Mr. BAUMANIS (Latvia) expressed satisfaction at the impartiality with which the High Commissioner had carried out his responsibilities. His recent visit to Latvia had provided valuable inputs for the discussion of Latvia's follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The preparation of a national plan for the promotion and protection of human rights and the establishment of an independent structure to protect the human rights of all individuals in Latvia clearly demonstrated his Government's commitment to implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action. Cooperation with the United Nations, CSCE, the Council of Europe and other international organizations was a priority of Latvia's foreign policy. Latvia's citizenship law had been guided by the

recommendations of Council of Europe experts and the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. His country's National Human Rights Plan and its programme for the teaching of the Latvian language were also being prepared in cooperation with the United Nations, CSCE and the Council of Europe. Lastly, paragraph 111 of the report quoted the High Commissioner as saying that issues relating to minorities were very difficult human problems. In that connection, it should be kept in mind that Latvians themselves were in the minority in the country's seven largest cities.

26. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) expressed satisfaction that the report of the High Commissioner (A/49/36) contained a section on realization of the right to development, and shared his view that the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights had not yet received the same attention as civil and political rights. His delegation commended the High Commissioner for his balanced approach to those issues and his bold intervention in Rwanda and in Burundi, where a major human rights disaster had been averted. Paragraph 66 of the report mentioned calling to the High Commissioner's attention any situations that might need his attention within the framework of the promotion and protection of human rights. In that connection, his delegation wished to draw attention to the massive violations of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir that had been reported and corroborated by human rights organizations for a number of years. He asked when the High Commissioner might visit Jammu and Kashmir and what interim measures he would consider taking before doing so. Pakistan also wished to know what cooperation would be expected from Governments in the area in order to initiate a meaningful dialogue to resolve the crisis.

27. Mr. BUKURU (Burundi) said that the work done by the High Commissioner in Burundi had been very encouraging and that his visit had had a positive effect on the negotiations that had led to the establishment of a coalition Government. Human rights were one of his Government's priorities, and it was determined to support the establishment of an office of the High Commissioner in Bujumbura. Burundi remained open to greater cooperation with the High Commissioner and supported his view that the international community should provide assistance to ensure the success of his programme in that country.

28. Mr. AYALA LASSO (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that paragraph 111 of his report spoke for itself. When he visited a country, he discussed general human rights issues and the specific human rights situation there. He sought to achieve practical results through open, frank and friendly talks. Paragraph 111 reflected only part of his discussions with authorities in the Baltic countries. In Latvia, he had received a copy of the National Human Rights Plan, which envisaged positive steps for promoting respect for human rights. He had expressed satisfaction in that regard and had encouraged the Latvian authorities to continue in that direction.

29. In carrying out his responsibilities, he considered it necessary to avoid duplicating the activities of other United Nations bodies and stressed the need to impart a new viewpoint and a new, constructive attitude to the promotion of human rights. In all cases in which States requested his assistance, he maintained contact with the Government concerned. He would continue to do so

and to seek to ensure that his country visits met the needs and desires of the States in question. He would endeavour to fulfil his mandate with complete independence and to ensure that his work was useful. In that connection, he was gratified that his Offices's activities had met the needs of the people of Burundi. He assured that country that he would give it all possible assistance to enable it to overcome the current crisis. Once that was done, Burundi would offer a very important precedent for future action in the field of human rights.

30. Mrs. FERRARO (United States of America) observed that the High Commissioner had referred to the need to set up a mechanism for dealing with emergency situations. She asked what kind of mechanism he envisaged and how it would be financed. Paragraph 86 of the report referred to the decision by the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur on violence against women. Her delegation wished to know how the work of that rapporteur would be coordinated with that of the Special Rapporteur on the situations in Rwanda and Burundi.

31. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria), referring to paragraph 69 of the High Commissioner's report, requested specific information on the indicators to measure progress in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and on the possibilities for using them. Paragraph 102 of the report referred to proposals to be made by the Working Group of the Third Committee for the rationalization and streamlining of the United Nations human rights machinery. His delegation wished to know to whom those proposals would be made.

32. Mr. TURK (Slovenia) welcomed the opportunity for a dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and said that he was greatly encouraged by the report on the High Commissioner's work (A/49/36). He had two comments on paragraph 74 of the report, in particular the reference to the need to develop indicators of progress in human rights and to assess the impact of the strategies and policies of the various agencies and programmes on the enjoyment of all human rights. A number of United Nations agencies and expert bodies had already looked into the matter, and human rights bodies should draw on the results of their work and on available statistical data to make a more accurate assessment of the situation with a view to issuing specific recommendations at a future date. Thus far, human rights issues had been examined chiefly from a legal standpoint. He, however, advocated a different, more comprehensive approach, with the accent on specific policies based on assessment and the proper use of available indicators.

33. With regard to existing standards relating to economic, social and cultural rights, the fact that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been widely accepted by the international community must not be overlooked. A number of general comments had also been issued which, together with the many country reports that had been submitted, provided a wealth of information and a solid basis for establishing specific standards and, eventually, policy recommendations that would ensure the enjoyment of those rights. He therefore encouraged the High Commissioner to pursue the approach outlined in paragraph 74, and would welcome further information on the subject. Such useful inputs to the Committee and other United Nations forums would

enhance their efforts to give greater impetus to the right to development as well as to economic, social and cultural rights.

34. Mr. AYALA LASSO (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that his comments on Rwanda had been intended to highlight the need to avoid the recurrence of similar events. The agencies and bodies concerned must take specific steps to ensure a rapid response in future to such crises by establishing a stand-by pool of competent staff and holding the necessary equipment readily available. The Office of the High Commissioner had already made requests along those lines to the United Nations Secretariat, which considered that the United Nations Office at Geneva could deal with the recruitment of experts. Meanwhile, close cooperation had been established with the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations for the supply of equipment. Contacts would also be maintained with the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. While he valued his Office's current cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, given the need to solve problems rapidly in order to avert potential political conflicts, he stressed that in the absence of an effective response from that Department he would be obliged to seek assistance elsewhere.

35. In response to the query regarding women's rights, he said that his Office attached great importance to women's issues in all United Nations spheres of competence, as borne out by the establishment of a post of special rapporteur on violence against women, pursuant to the Vienna Declaration. Discussions had already been held with Burundi on that issue, but so far it had not been possible to take up the matter with Rwanda.

36. Responding to the representative of Algeria, he said that he did his best to comply with the instructions or decisions of all governmental bodies, since as a member of the Secretariat he was duty bound to serve the interests of Member States. He also considered it a part of his mandate to make suggestions with a view to assisting such bodies in their decision-making. So far, he had not provided any input to the Working Group of the Third Committee, which should be allowed time to complete its work. He would, however, do so at the appropriate time, if requested.

37. The development of indicators was a very complex issue. None the less, some studies had already been carried out to define appropriate criteria for assessing efforts made towards the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. The group of countries concerned, which was based in Geneva, would be preparing a report on the results of its work by the end of 1995. However, it was hoped that some kind of preliminary report would be available within a few months and that it would contain proposals for guaranteeing economic, social and cultural rights and, more importantly, a practical plan of implementation. That was rather a controversial issue, but he was firmly convinced that effective action to promote economic, social and cultural rights would ensure greater respect for human rights in general. The opinion of human rights experts such as the representative of Slovenia would be particularly useful in that regard.

38. Mr. PARSHIKOV (Russian Federation) commended the High Commissioner on his report and pledged Russia's support in funding the activities of his Office. Recently, a meeting had been held in Geneva at which the High Commissioner had given a detailed report on his visit to the Baltic Republics. Although the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation had received a report on that meeting, he would welcome further information on any specific recommendations made by the High Commissioner to the Governments concerned regarding the problems encountered by large groups of the population of different ethnic origin. That would be in line with the General Assembly's request to the Secretary-General that he keep Member States informed of the situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia (General Assembly resolution 48/155). In particular, he wondered whether the High Commissioner had made any recommendations regarding compulsory language examinations, and the granting of multiple exit visas and residence and work permits to those population groups.

39. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) commended the High Commissioner on his efforts over the past year and assured him of India's future cooperation. Referring to paragraph 101 of the report (A/49/36), he asked whether a list had been compiled of all the United Nations agencies and parts of the Secretariat dealing with human rights matters. That would be useful for assessing how they were fulfilling their mandates and whether they needed to be strengthened.

40. He recalled that, when discussing the mandate of the High Commissioner, the Third Committee had agreed that human rights issues must not be used for political purposes. He therefore objected to the fact that, in the course of the current debate, the representative of Pakistan had used human rights issues to substantiate his country's territorial claims to a region of India. It was widely acknowledged that the situation in that region had been caused by terrorism sponsored and supported by Pakistan. Moreover, the Vienna Declaration and subsequent Third Committee resolutions had pointed to terrorism as one of the greatest threats to human rights. He would welcome the comments of the High Commissioner in that connection, especially on State terrorism and resulting human rights violations.

41. Mr. LAMPTEY (Ghana), after expressing appreciation for the activities and report of the High Commissioner, said that he would welcome further information on how the High Commissioner intended to fulfil the other important aspect of his mandate: to rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

42. Mr. AYALA LASSO (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), replying to the query by the Russian representative, said that it was customary for him to meet regularly with regional groups to report on his activities. Accordingly, he had held an informal meeting with the countries concerned upon his return from the Baltic States. He certainly had nothing to hide, since Governments had received a full report on that meeting through the diplomatic channel. There was none the less a distinction between informal forums and formal ones such as the current meeting which he wished to respect.

43. He assured the Russian representative that, during his visit to the Baltic States, he had taken up all the issues raised in his report, had borne in mind the many relevant recommendations of the Council of Europe and CSCE and had publicly expressed satisfaction at the progress made by those countries in the protection of human rights.

44. Turning to the statement by the representative of India, he said that when referring in paragraph 101 of his report (A/49/36) to the relevant parts of the Secretariat, he had in mind, inter alia, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. However, the review would be extended to all human rights bodies, since as High Commissioner it was his duty to deal with all aspects of human rights.

45. In response to the query by the representative of Ghana, he said that he did have some ideas about the other aspect of his mandate, but would prefer to allow the Working Group sufficient time to complete its work. So far, the Working Group had not sought his advice, but he would be glad to make suggestions in due course, if so requested. He welcomed the expressions of support for the activities of his Office thus far, which would help to achieve the desired results. He underlined the valuable work being done by the Centre for Human Rights and urged delegations to facilitate its task by agreeing to provide the necessary financial and human resources.

46. The CHAIRMAN thanked the High Commissioner for his very comprehensive report and for the detailed replies he had given to questions, which had clarified a number of important issues. He also thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Fall, for attending the meeting.

47. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that, regrettably, he could not let the fallacies in the Indian representative's statement go unchallenged. He had felt it necessary to bring the human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir to the attention of human rights bodies and the High Commissioner. Kashmir was not an integral part of India. It was recognized as a disputed territory by Security Council resolutions and United Nations maps, and a United Nations peace-keeping force was currently deployed there. India had levelled charges of terrorism against Pakistan on numerous occasions, but in his view the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir was the worst example of State terrorism and was being financed and supported by the Indian Government and executed by 600,000 Indian troops. In any case, he had simply appealed to the High Commissioner to look into the situation, and not to pass judgement on it before his visit to the region. Lastly, the Vienna Declaration did not in any way limit discussion of the political dimensions of human rights situations world wide.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.